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Thursday, April 29, 2010

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Mercury & Citizen



Thursday, April 29, 2010

FREE EVERY WEEK

The past week in Chronicle & ECHO headlines

Images of George Bernard Shaw and Francis Crick are to be projected on Market Square buildings as part of regeneration project



Veterans of wartime operations in Egypt reunited after 50 years and officially presented with medals at Sywell Aerodrome



Eleven commercial properties in Northampton town centre values at nearly £1.5m to go under the hammer next month



Nine new roads on 'danger' list

NINE new danger roads in Northamptonshire have been added to a list of "red routes" which will be the subject of extra policing and traffic enforcement over the next year.

Northamptonshire Casualty Reduction Partnership has released details of which roads will be included in the safety scheme during 2010/11 due to their high levels of serious or fatal accidents.

While the A43 between Kettering and Northampton still tops the list as the most dangerous route, with five deaths in two years, other roads to be added this year include Mill Lane in Kingsthorpe and Billing Road, which runs through Northampton.

In a report to the partnership, Red Route Group spokesman Simon Mills said the scheme had been so successful the criteria which roads had to meet to be labelled a red route had been reduced.

He said: "Originally, the criteria were six killed or seriously injured (KSI) collisions within a 1,000 metre stretch of road in a rural environment and over 500 metres within an urban area, in a three-year period. Any section of road meeting these criteria would be looked at from a casualty reduction perspective for intervention. These routes were then numbered and designated as red routes.

"These criteria have recently been reduced to four KSI collisions, due to

the success of the Casualty Reduction Partnership, as we have been successful in reducing the number of casualties on these routes through education, enforcement and engineering."

Several red routes have been "reactivated", including the A422 in Deanshanger in the south of the county.

The Earls Barton to Wilby road and the Nobottle Road to Whilton have both been taken off the list as a result of a reduction in accidents, but will still be monitored.

A separate list of red routes has been drawn up for motorcyclists in the county after it was established bikers were involved in a disproportionately high number of crashes.

A total of 18 sections of roads have been named as danger roads for motorbikes, with the A508 between the Queen Eleanor roundabout and Pitsford topping the list with 18 casualties between 2007 and 2009.

Both the A5 between Old Stratford and Towcester and the A45 between Daventry and Upton will be monitored under the scheme over the next two years.

Almost 150 roads in Northamptonshire have now been included in the red route scheme over the past decade. During the next year, a total of 57 will be classified as red routes during 2010/11.

The scheme was first set up 10 years ago, when there were 58 deaths on the county's roads. Last year, the figure fell to an all-time low of 34.



Mill Lane in Kingsthorpe has been added to the list of dangerous 'red routes'

Volcano victims get extra five days

COUNCIL workers caught up in travel chaos caused by last week's volcanic eruption will be given up to five days' extra paid leave, county bosses have revealed.

More than 80 members of staff at Northamptonshire County Council missed work after they were stranded following the cancellation of all flights last week.

A memo informed staff who missed work they would be allowed up to five additional days' paid leave, while further missed days will have to be taken as annual leave.

Council bosses say they are meeting "exceptional circumstances" and the gesture "will not be available for future absences as a result of flight delays".

A spokesman for Northamptonshire County Council said: "In situations where employees have been stranded for more than five days advice states that it may be possible, in some services, to allow employees to make up some of the time lost through working extra hours but there would need to be a time limit on the period during which this could be accommodated. This decision would rest with the employee's line manager."

A Northampton Borough Council spokesman said "a handful" of staff had been off because of the airport closures. Workers will now have to take the time out of their holiday allowance, although the authority has said it was prepared to review "individual circumstances".

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'Sign should

OFFICERS at Northampton Borough Council have revealed the owners of the historic Barratts shoe factory did not have permission to paint over its famous sign and have re-utated claims an application had been submitted.

Many people said they were "appalled" the Northampton-based McManus pub firm, which now owns the town landmark in Kingsthorpe Road, had covered the huge hand-painted sign in whitewash.

The company initially started to paint over the sign in June last

year but their progress was halted halfway through when council officers informed them they needed listed building consent.

After painting over the sign, which read "Barratts walk round factory shoe shop", the owners told our sister paper the *Chronicle & Echo* an application had been submitted to the council last week.

However, Sue Bridge, head of planning at The Guildhall, claimed no application had been received.

She said: "We have a duty to protect the town's rich heritage and will work with developers and use planning legislation to

ensure buildings of historical value are preserved.

"In this instance we were not notified that work would be re-starting and have expressed our concerns to the developer. We are now working with the developer to see how the sign can be restored and expect the developer to submit an application for Listed Building Consent. If no application is received we will consider what action can be taken."

Beryl Addington, whose father William Addington opened the factory in 1913 with the Barratt brothers, William and Dick, said it was a "disgrace" the sign had been painted over.

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be restored'

She said: "It is absolutely appalling. My father set up Barratts and that sign is just about the only thing we had left of Barratts. I find this awful. It makes me so angry that they think they can get away with painting over it. I think it is so wrong, there is hardly any of our history left in Northampton."

Asked about the opposition, Paul McManus said: "I think we should keep heritage and it is a lovely building, but it is a misleading sign. It is confusing to people. I do understand it would be nice to preserve as much as we can of the history of the shoe industry but people do say 'why don't you change the sign?' when they have come in to buy shoes."



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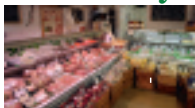
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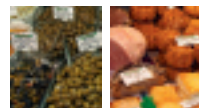
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School's policy upsets parents

A SECONDARY school in Northampton has defended its decision to send several pupils home to change as part of a school uniform clampdown.

Staff at The Duston School launched the crackdown after the Easter holiday, targeting pupils who flout the school's uniform policy by wearing coloured footwear.

The school's policy allows pupils to wear trainers and casual pumps to class, as long as they are black. However, the school said some pupils had begun wearing trainers with brightly-coloured laces or colourful details.

Pupils were warned about the crackdown before the Easter holidays, when parents were also sent a newsletter from headteacher

er Jane Herriman.

For the past few days, pupils have been inspected as they arrived at school and those not meeting the rules have been told to tape up the shoes with black gaffer tape or return home to change.

However, several angry parents claim their child had gone home without their knowledge.

Deputy headteacher Maureen Raine said: "There is no new school uniform, there are no new rules, it is a case of 'this is what our school uniform is, we expect you to follow it'. No pupil has been going home without communication from this school first."



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Hospital hits targets

HOSPITAL staff are celebrating after it was revealed Northampton General Hospital had hit every Government target this year.

Board papers had showed that all year, Northampton General Hospital had been below standard on at least one target at the end of every month.

However in the last month of the financial year, staff worked hard to make sure everything from superbugs to patient waiting times were in order just in time to satisfy every single yearly target.

Chief executive Paul Forden said: "I'm delighted to report that the trust has met all of the key national targets. This includes those for maximum waiting times, cancer waiting and treatment times, A&E transit times and reducing MRSA and C Difficile infections.

"We have been able to achieve all of this and still deliver our required financial surplus."

Accident and Emergency department waiting times, which the hospital failed last year, were one of the biggest concerns throughout the 12 months to March, mainly because of the prolonged cold weather and high numbers of flu cases.

Although the majority of people were still dealt with within four hours

During 2009/2010 NGH achieved:

- A&E performance - 98.2 per cent of people dealt with within four hours
- Eighteen Weeks target - more than 90 per cent of admitted patients treated within 18 weeks of a GP referral
- Waiting times for cancer treatment - targets for patients treated within 31 days were hit every month and exceeded for the year
- MRSA - nine cases detected in 12 months (the threshold was 10 cases)

of arriving at A&E throughout the year, the strict Government monthly target had not been surpassed since November. But a strong performance last month meant that on average during 2009/2010 more than 98 per cent of patients were admitted, transferred or discharged within the time limit.

Christine Allen, director of operations, said: "This is the first time in many years we have hit every one of our targets in the same month and it's also been a few years since all our annual targets were achieved too. It really was a hard slog but these figures are a pat on the back for our staff's great efforts."

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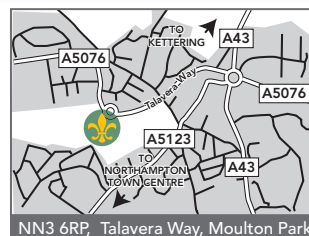


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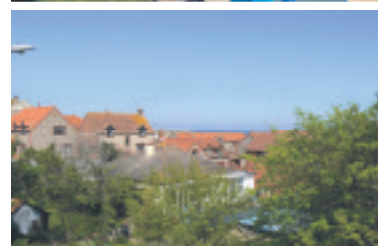
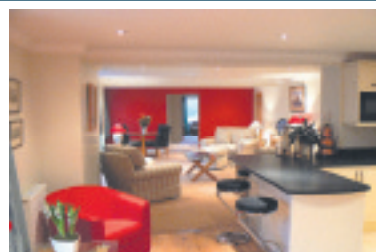
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source: www.pilkington.com

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Milton Keynes company Homesure are now a registered installer of the top energy efficient products by Pilkington. John said "I always take the time to listen to what our customers want most from our products and it became clear that saving money, fuel and energy are definitely top of most people's list right now. With the new EnergiKare glass coupled with the fact we are a registered installer of glazed windows, fitted with Super Spacer warm edge technology insulated glass units in our windows and doors. We have made sure that the latest and most effective energy saving products are available to all our customers, leading the way yet again."

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source: www.pilkington.com

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Marathon effort

THE wife of an Alzheimer's patient who died earlier this month aged 41 completed an "emotional" London Marathon run in his memory.

Dione Priddy, aged 40, from Northampton, finished the 26.2-mile course in three hours and 56 minutes, just two days after the funeral of father-of-two Mark, who died earlier this month four years after being diagnosed with early onset dementia aged 36.

She said: "It was an amazing, overwhelming and emotional day and I'm so glad I did it."

Dione has so far raised more than £10,000 for Alzheimer's Research via her online fundraising page www.justgiving.com/dione-priddy but said she had no plans to stop there.

She said: "I feel a bit lost now Mark has gone and I'm not training any more."

"I need something else to get my teeth into so I will be raising more money for Alzheimer's Research, as it's a cause I'm passionate about and it helps me feel useful."

Among the other county runners pounding the pavements on Sunday was *Chron* assistant editor Richard Ed-

mondson, who finished in three hours, 59 minutes and 57 seconds.

Charlene Birch, wife of royal marine Cpl Marc Birch who was killed by a suicide bomber in Afghanistan in 2008, finished in five hours and 20 minutes in her efforts to raise money for forces charity Help for Heroes in his memory.

She said: "It was emotional but well worth the pain. The crowd were fantastic and there was a really good atmosphere."

Saints boss Jim Mallinder

finished in four hours, 15 minutes and 12 seconds, coming third out of the club's five runners who took part to raise £6,000 for Autism Concern.

John White, of Wootton Fields, Northampton, finally managed to complete this year's marathon, after being struck down by a sickness bug the day before he was due to run last year.

The 34-year-old completed the London course in three hours and 25 minutes to raise money for Cancer Research UK.

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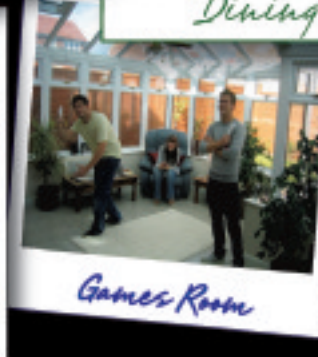
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Births

GOODRICH

Phillip and Yvonne

Are pleased to announce the safe arrival of a Baby Girl, Megan Mary. Sister to Ciaran. Born 16th April 18:32, weighing 8lbs 12oz. Thanks all the staff at NGH.



RAWLINGS

Congratulations Heather & Damian on the Birth of your beautiful Son **Ellis James Theodore** Born on 25th April All our love from Dad, Gill & all the family xxx



Goodrich - James

Phillip & Yvonne
 Congratulations on the arrival of **Megan**
 Born 16/04/2010
 Sister for Ciaran
 Lots of love from Mum
 Claire & Mark,
 Mark & Georgia
 and families
 xxx

RODDIS
 21/04/2010

Congratulations to Eli and Danny on the safe birth of Milly June. Sister of Harvey, Great Granddaughter of John and the late June xxx

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Brook & Jodie
 Congratulations on the birth of your Son **Oakley Zane** on 20/04/2010. A beautiful Great Grandson, Great Nephew & 2nd Cousin for Nan, Pap, Ette, Steve, Ford & Lola. xxxxxx

RUSH/CRANE

Brook & Jodie
 Thank you so much for our wonderful Grandson **Oakley Zane**, 20/04/2010. 6lb 14ozs. Love & Cuddles from Mum, Dad, Auntie's Ashton & Polly. xxxxx Cousin for Honey.



18th Birthday

Chelsey BERGIN



18 Today!
 Have a fantastic Birthday. All our love Dad, Sarah, Paul, Liam and Skye x x x x

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BERGIN Chelsey Michelle

Happy 18th Birthday to our beautiful Granddaughter. Enjoy your party. Lots of love, Nan and Pap Bergin and Family xxx



O'HARE Charlie

Happy 18th Charlie. Lots of love all the family x x x



Charlotte PURSGLOVE

Congratulations on your 18th Birthday. Love Mum, Steve and Josh x
 Happy 18th Birthday Charlotte. Wishing you lots of happiness. Love Nan, Shirley, Auntie Trish and Sam x

18th Birthday

Celebrate!

SANDERSON Jack

Congratulations on your 18th. 'Enjoy the journey mate' We are so proud of you. Love Mum, Dad, Harry and Lottie



21st Birthday

JODIE JACKSON

Happy 21st birthday Blonde girl. Love always. Dad and Amy, Grandad, Gran and Grampy. x x x x x



40th Birthday

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Karl OLSON
 40 years young!
 Happy Birthday We're so proud of you Lots of love from Maxine & your gorgeous girls Lily-May & Myla xxx

90th Birthday

BRUMHILL Reg

Many Congratulations on your 90th Birthday. With fondest love to our dear Uncle.

From Mary, Tom and family, Martin, Susan and John.

Diamond Wedding

Peter Eccles & June Seymour

22nd April 1950

At Willingdon Church East Sussex

Happy Anniversary Mum and Dad

From all your Children & Grandchildren



Acknowledgements

BARRON

The Family of the late Barbara Barron would like to thank all the Relatives, Friends and Neighbours for the kind words of sympathy, the many cards, floral tributes and donations on their sad loss. Special thanks to the Doctors and Nurses of Willow Ward N.G.H The Reverend Malcolm Deacon, Chris Abbott and to Kevin Matthews Funeral Services for their care and compassion.

In Memoriam

CAREY Patrick Gerard

In loving memory of a dear Husband and Daughter Rosemary Anne. Sadly missed and never forgotten. Always in our thoughts and prayers.

Rosa, Kathleen, Richard and Geraldine.

Congratulations

NIGHTINGALE

Well done Mark on completing the **London Marathon in 3hrs 19 mins** Thanking everyone who supported him for Great Ormond Street Hospital & Children with Leukemia Love from all the family. x x x

In Memoriam

DENNEY Jennifer

26th April 2009. This is my first year without you. I speak your name with love and pride, I smile with tears I try to hide. I thank you for the years we shared. The love you gave me and the way you cared for me. MISSING YOU MORE THAN WORDS CAN SAY. Your dear Partner Lenny x x x x

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FOWLER — Joyce.
 In loving memory of Joyce Fowler who passed away April 29th 2008 and Tommy (Slash Fowler) who passed away May 4th 2009. Thoughts go back to happy days when we were all together. The family chain is broken now but memories live forever. Rest in Peace from all the Family.

GIBBS John

Passed away 28th April 2008. Its been two years since you passed on. Not a day goes by that I don't long to hold on to you and say, I love and miss you more each day.

Forever in our hearts. Colleen, Gary, Kelly and Kevin

GRIFFIN Terry

Cherish memories of a wonderful Husband of 60 years. Devoted Father and Grandfather.

You brought us joy everyday, you died on 27th April, a year today. We miss and love you forever. Your loving Wife Jean, Daughter Linda and Valerie and Son Terry. Families Glyn, Gaynor and John, loving Grandchildren Gemma, Lauren and Ryan.

God bless Pap x x

In Memoriam

HARRISON Craig

26th April 2002. If we could have one wish today, And all our dreams come true, It would be for our door to open, And see you walking through. Love and miss you always Mum, Dad and Glen.

HARRISON Craig

26th April 2002. My Pea. Remembering you is easy I do it every day I hold you close within my heart And there you'll always stay. Love you & miss you. Cath x

Birthday Memories

HARRISON — Craig.
 Loved and remembered always. Rob, Val and Family.

Oakey — Doris.
 Died 29-04-2007. Fondly remembered by all the family and friends.

WAKE Wendy

12-12-40 - 26-04-2009. In loving memory of my dearest Wife who passed away one year ago today. Now at peace with Bob and Michael. From your broken hearted Husband Ray.

Birthday Memories

YOUNG Doreen

Remembering you on this special day I will always love and miss you ("Come what may") Love Dave, Jackie, Bob, Ben & Aimee x x x

WALKINGTON Kenneth

Birthday remembrance of our dear son Kenneth (33rd Birthday)

Our lives go on without you, Ken, But things are not the same, It's hard to hide the heartache, When someone speaks your name. All our lives we'll miss you, Our secret tears still flow, How much we really love you, Ken, No one will ever know.

We miss you so much Ken, you're always in our thoughts, Your ever loving Mum and Dad. xxxxxx

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Thursday, April 29, 2010

Latest Honda Jazz model hit the target perfectly...

CAR makers do lots of research to find out all about the people tempted to buy their models, it helps them target us better.

So the latest Honda Jazz ought to be my kind of car; I was a whole 11 days younger than the average age of an owner when the test machine was taken back to the Honda press fleet garage.

By the time you read this report I'll have attained the perfect Jazz age profile - 65 - and

can report the car hits the target... pretty well perfectly.

And not just for all the obvious reasons (easy to drive and get into, for starters) but because it's a properly good little car for the keener driver too.

There's a delicious precision about the way this pocket-sized charmer goes about its business, from the way the switches click on

and off to the nicest gearchange I've enjoyed in months.

And all this on top of a car so cleverly thought through it was still showing me new tricks the day it departed.

Most of the cleverness centres around the multitude of ways you can alter the seats and boot to make the car turn into the Tardis, such is the amount of space the designers have found.

Carried over from the first Jazz (slightly

smaller than today's car and greatly loved by owners) are rear seats that fold down conventionally, but can also be made to fold their cushions upward, liberating enough room for tall things like giant flowerpots or odd pieces of furniture.

Then, the boot floor can be fitted in halfway up its height, so there's a shelf, complete with netted pouch to take that annoying bottle that would otherwise roll round on the boot floor.

Owners of Jazz mark one wanted

a softer ride and easier steering, both served up in this latest model. You still wouldn't confuse the way it tackles a bad road with a magic carpet, but it won't raise eyebrows either. The steering is light enough now, if lacking much feel about what's going on underneath.

That's unlikely to worry your average Jazz driver, who is more likely to enjoy the way building the car a little taller than usual makes getting in and out easier on ageing joints, or the way the upright driving position and lots of window area gives you a fine view of the road ahead.

Then there's that lovely gear-change, and a clutch so light and progressive I wouldn't even consider the optional automatic gearbox available on some Jazz models.

I probably wouldn't bother with the test car's engine either. It worked fine (and so quietly at idle I kept thinking it had stalled) but a previous drive in the smaller engined Jazz (1.2 litres plays 1.4) showed it to be hardly any slower. It is also £875 cheaper and would do even better than the fine 50 mpg I managed.

The test proved (yet again) that the bargains in most car ranges are towards the start of the price list, not battling against the top, as was the case here.

Shorn of a few little luxuries (panoramic fixed glass roof and cruise control, for example) and with the smaller engine, the £12,063 1.2 SE would do fine. Better than fine, actually.

Road Test

REVIEW BY IAN DONALDSON



CAR: Honda Jazz 1.4i EX
PRICE: £14,083
DRIVETRAIN: 1.4 litre 99bhp petrol engine, 5-speed gearbox
PERFORMANCE: Top speed 112mph 0-62mph 11.8 seconds
ECONOMY: Euro average 51.4mpg CO2 130g/km road tax £90
SIZE: 3900mm long 1695mm wide
SAFETY: Euro NCAP 5 stars
INSURANCE: Group 16 (out of 50)
WARRANTY: Three years or 90,000 miles

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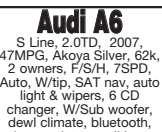
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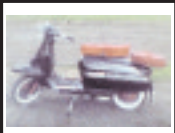
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The successful candidate:

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- Should preferably have previous credit control experience
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- Will carry out daily telephone debt chasing, logging all calls
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If you are interested in the post please send your CV, including present salary, along with a covering letter to:

David Patrick
Divisional Financial Controller
Johnston Press - Midlands Division
Upper Mounts
Northampton
NN1 3HR

Closing date: 10th May 2010

Interviews will be held week commencing 17th May 2010

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The successful candidate will be well organised, computer literate and a good communicator. A keen eye for detail and the ability to work to tight deadlines are essential requirements. Apple Mac skills are desirable.

To apply send a CV and covering letter to:

Mr D J Gilbert, Head of Media,
The British Institute of
Non-Destructive Testing,
1 Spencer Parade,
Northampton NN1 5AA.
Closing date: 28th May 2010.



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Application forms and further details are available from The Principal, Welling Park Community College, Welling Park Road, Market Harborough, LEICS LE16 9DR

Tel. 01858 464795 Fax. 01858 433702

Email: adminoffice@wellingpark.leics.sch.uk

Closing date for completed application forms – 11th May 2010

Anticipated interview dates during w/c – 17th May 2010

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Please forward all applications with your CV to:
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ABOUT THE COMPANY

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ABOUT THE ROLE

You will provide initial and ongoing assessments and care planning for clients. You will be training support workers in clinical skills and assessing their competence to ensure care plan compliance. You will liaise within the multi-disciplinary teams to ensure our clients have optimum care and work to the Care Quality Commission guidelines, as well as working within the NMC framework. Frequent travel within the area is essential with fortnightly meetings at Head Office.

ABOUT YOU

Previous experience in ventilation (invasive or non invasive) would be preferred but specialist training will be provided with the support of our specialist nurses in house. Training qualifications would be useful as you will be undertaking classroom sessions. You must be able to work as part of a team & equally important is the ability to be proactive in the planning & organisation of a busy & diverse workload. You should be flexible with a good sense of humour and excellent communication skills, both verbal and written. Reliability and commitment are essential. You will be willing to travel within your region. The successful applicant will be required to undertake an Enhanced Disclosure.

Closing Date: 05/05/2010

Interview Dates: TBC – at Head Office, Kettering

Telephone 01536 486805 for an application form quoting MLO/02

– please ask to speak to Debbie Ferguson for an informal chat.

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Independent Community Care Management Ltd

CQC Reg Nos: CS10002524/CS10002525



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Due to our continued growth, we have the following opportunities:

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For an informal discussion about the role, please contact
Ron Lodge, Deputy Head of Community Fundraising on
07747 023731.

For an application pack, please go to our website, or call the recruitment line on 020 7599 7201 quoting reference SE670.
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For further information about the roles and an informal discussion contact Ursula Holt:

Tel: 07769 917015

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Quote Ref: CB09086

For an informal discussion about the post please contact Lee Jones on (01604) 893889.

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Closing date: 14 May 2010

Interview date: 11 June 2010

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Quote Ref: CW09109

For an informal discussion please contact Sheryl Randall, Director of Information & Planning Unit on (01604) 892781, email Sheryl.Randall@northampton.ac.uk

Closing date: 13 May 2010

Interview date: 27 May 2010.

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Closing date: Friday 7 May 2010.

Interview date: Tuesday 18 May 2010.

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Sport

Sampson says staying is Bayo's call

COBBLERS boss Ian Sampson says he 'can't force' Adebayo Akinfenwa to sign a new deal at Sixfields, and says the star striker is well within his rights to listen to offers from elsewhere.

Akinfenwa has been a transfer target for Leyton Orient and Carlisle United in the past, while Swansea City had a £100,000 transfer bid accepted for the player last summer.

After scoring 16 goals this term, the forward's stock has risen and

even more clubs may be courting his signature when the campaign finishes.

Supporters in the west stand implored their hero to 'sign the deal' last Saturday as he was warming down, and Akinfenwa smiled at the fans and made a signing gesture with his hand.

Sampson, though, feels the big man may see what else is about, something he completely understands.

"He's become an iconic figure

at Northampton Town and that seems strange to say because he's only been here a couple of years," he said.

"He's just so well liked by everyone and he's got a real presence. The fans here like him and we feel we've made him a good offer.

"If he feels the love from the fans like he says he does then he'll sign it, but I can't force him to do that.

"If he wants to look elsewhere

then that's his prerogative, and I've always said that about players. He's no different.

"He's not fully fit yet and it was a bit of a gamble to play him on Saturday but it was a gamble that paid off."

One player who benefited more than any other from the big man's return at the weekend was Billy McKay, who ended an eight-game drought with a fine strike in the 2-0 win against Shrewsbury.

Sampson feels the static na-

ture of Akinfenwa's game suits McKay, who has to work harder as a result, which in turn suits his own style.

"The harder he works the better he plays, it's certainly in his favour to play like that," he said.

"When he's alongside Bayo (Akinfenwa) he has to do a lot more running and that seems to bring the best out of his game."

The Cobblers are back in league two action on Saturday at Bradford City (ko 3pm)

Powell signs on at Saints

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SAINTS have signed Welsh international scrum-half Ryan Powell as the club continues to look to the future.

Powell will join from relegated Worcester as Northampton have acted to plug the gap left by Alan Dickens, who is hanging up his boots at the end of the season.

Director of rugby Jim Mallinder had been linked with Racing Metro's Nic Berry and New Zealand Under-21 international Taniela Moa, but has decided Powell is the man to battle for the number 9 shirt.

Powell wasn't part of the Worcester side that lost at Leeds last Sunday to relegate the Warriors to the Championship.

An injury-hit season had seen him lose his place to Johnny Arr, but the 29-year-old has made 78 appearances for Worcester since joining them in 2006 after seven seasons at Cardiff Blues.

Powell also has three Welsh caps to his name and will offer plenty of experience to Saints when he joins in the summer. The former Wales A captain is excited at the chance of joining a top four side and playing in the Heineken Cup again.

"I jumped at the chance of joining Northampton," said Powell. "It was a great honour to be asked. Everything about the Saints is great. They've got a never-say-die attitude and their style of play is hard to defend against."

And Powell can't wait to ply his trade at a packed out Franklin's Gardens as he looks to challenge ever-present Lee Dickson for the scrum-half spot.

Powell said: "Worcester have got a great fan base and set-up, but when I came to the Saints to chat with Jim and the coaches it was clear that they want to move forward.

"They want to push on as a club to try and be one of the best teams in England and in Europe. It could be an exciting future and is a big reason why I signed."

The Saints have a free weekend ahead of them, as the focus switches to Heineken Cup semi-final action.

And they will relish the break after two defeats in a week sees them still in second place but needing a victory in their last Premiership game at London Irish to clinch home advantage in the play-off finals.



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